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# Economic and Social Council

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**Resumed organizational session for 2013**
25 and 26 April 2013
Agenda item 4
**Elections, nominations, confirmations and appointments**

## Election of eight members of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues from among candidates nominated by Governments

### Note by the Secretary-General

1. The following persons have been nominated by their Governments for election to the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues:*

Simon William M'Viboudoulou (Congo)

Gervais Nzoa (Cameroon)

Joseph Goko Mutangah (Kenya)

Mohammad Hassani Nejad Pirkouhi (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Oliver Loode (Estonia)

Aisa Mukabenova (Russian Federation)

Simón Freddy Condo Riveros (Plurinational State of Bolivia)

Gabriel Muyuy Jacanamejoy (Colombia)

Alvaro Esteban Pop Ac (Guatemala)

Jens Dahl (Denmark)

Megan Davis (Australia)

2. The curricula vitae of the candidates is set out in the annex to the present note.

* Information on the terms of office and pattern for election to the Permanent Forum and list of nominees from Governments is contained in document E/2013/9/Add.3.

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# Annex

## Curricula vitae of the candidates for election to the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues*

## African States

### Simon William M'Viboudoulou (Congo)

[Original: French]

Current position: Judge, Director of international legal affairs and cooperation

**Personal data**

Judge

President of the Criminal Chamber, Appellate Court of Brazzaville

Director of international legal affairs and cooperation, Ministry of Justice and Human Rights

Expert in evaluation of institutional capacities and drafting of legislative and administrative texts

Independent expert, Member of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

**Education and academic qualifications**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1982-1986 | First cycle of higher studies, Faculty of law of the Marien Ngouabi University, Brazzaville, Congo |
| 1986-1988 | Second cycle of professional higher studies, National school of administration and magistracy, Brazzaville, Congo |

**Diplomas**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1986 | Bachelor's degree in law, elective in private law |
| 1988 | Diploma of magistracy |

**Work experience**

| | |
|---|---|
| May 2008-present | Director of international legal affairs and cooperation, Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, Brazzaville |
| 1999-2009 | Vice-President, Owando high court and Acting President of the Oyo court |
| 1999-2009 | Member of the Commission on eligibility for refugee status |
| 1998-1999 | Vice-President, Dolisie high court; concurrently, Acting President, Madingou high court |

* Curricula vitae are issued without formal editing.

| | |
|---|---|
| 1996-1998 | President of the second criminal chamber of the Pointe-Noire high court |
| 1994-1996 | Judge, Impfondo high court |
| 1989-1994 | Judge, Pointe-Noire high court |

**United Nations languages spoken**: French, English

## Gervais Nzoa (Cameroon)

[Original: French]

**Profession**

Development specialist — Trainer

**Training**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1997-2001 | Pan African Institute for Development, Central Africa | |
| | Diplomas obtained: | – Development specialist diploma |
| | | – Specialized higher education diploma (DESS) in project planning |
| | | – Local development and management of natural resources certificate |
| | | – Development project certificate |
| | | – Environmental studies certificate |
| | | – Training of trainers certificate |
| 1985-1990 | University of Yaoundé | |
| | Diploma obtained: Master of Laws (Maîtrise en droit) | |

**Key qualifications**

- Expert in training of trainers (andragogy)
- Expert in evaluation of environmental impact
- Expert in environmental studies (socioeconomic studies)
- Expert in development projects (project/programme cycle)
- Expert in local development and management of natural resources
- Specialist in economic and social development

**Work experience**

| | |
|---|---|
| 2010 | Programme officer, pilot project to support local sustainable development in the border area of eastern Cameroon, United Nations Development Programme, Yaoundé |
| 2004 | Coordinator, Centre d'Accompagnement des Alternatives Locales de Développement, Yaoundé |
| 2002 | Social science consultant, UN-Habitat, Abong-Mbang, Mbalmayo |
| 2001-2002 | Head of the regional office, Centre de recherche et d'action pour le développement durable en Afrique centrale (CERAD), Bertoua-Dimako, East Region, Kribi, South Region |
| 2001-2002 | Facilitator for area 3.2, Chad-Cameroon Pipeline Project (CCTCO), Nanga-Eboko, Minta, Nsem, Bibey |

1994-1999 Head of rural outreach/agricultural community programmes, Centre for self-sustained development (CeDAC), Sangmélima-Ebolowa, South Region

**Languages**: Bikélé/Badjoue, Nzimé/Baka, Bulu/Eton, French, English

## Joseph Goko Mutangah (Kenya)

**Academic qualifications**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1996 | Ph.D | Degree in Environmental Ecology at the University of Wales, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland |
| 1990 | MSc. | Degree in Plant Ecology at the University of Nairobi, Kenya |
| 1982 | BSc. | Degree in Botany (Hons) at Panjab University, India |

**Work experience**

Principal Research Scientist and Head of Kenya Resource Center for Indigenous Knowledge, National Museums of Kenya (NMK)

**Projects/consultancy services**

| | |
|---|---|
| 2012 | Ethnobiology of East Pokot community |
| 2011 | Ethnobiology of Luo, Teso and Luhya communities |
| 2010 | Restoration of the muthiga tree (warburgia ugandensis) in the community farmlands of the central Kenya region |
| 2010 | Environmental assessment of spraying tsetse flies in Meru National Park |
| 2009 | Biodiversity survey of the Eastern Mau Forest |
| 2009 | Development of the Hombe Forest management plan |
| 2009 | Biodiversity survey of the sacred Tharaka sites |

**Leadership qualifications**

- Head of the Kenya Resource Centre for Indigenous Knowledge (2005 to 2013)
- Muthiga (warburgia ugandensis) restoration project
- Chairman of the ISO Standards Implementation Committee (2007)
- Chairman of the Habitat Restoration Initiatives for Eastern Africa (1998-2006)
- Alternate Chairman of the Training and Developing Committee of NMK (2006)
- Chairman of the Ecology Exhibit Development Committee of NMK (2006)

**Training skills**

| | |
|---|---|
| 2012 | Trained in civic education for senior officers, Kenya Institute of Administration |
| 2008 | Trained as Quality Management System Internal Auditor by Millennium Management Consultants |
| 2007 | Trained on scientific writing, RPSUD |
| 2007 | Training on quality management systems by the Kenya Bureau of Standards |

2006 Training needs assessment by University of Nairobi Consultant

2004 Performance management course by BEAM Consultants

**Publications**

Ethnobiology of the East Pokot Community, Technical Report, Biodiversity International, 2012.

Ethnobiology of the Luo, Teso and Luhya Communities, Technical Report, Biodiversity International, 2011.

Biodiversity Surveys of the Eastern Mau Forest (Eburu, Sururu and Lake Naivasha riparian forests), Technical Report, Green Belt Movement, 2010.

The Hombe Forest Participatory Management Plan, Technical Report, Mt. Kenya West Conservation Network, 2010.

## Asia-Pacific States

### Mohammad Hassani Nejad Pirkouhi (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Born in 1971, Mr. Hassani is currently living in Tehran with his family of four. He is an alumnus of the College of International Relations, affiliated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He got his BA in International Relations in 1995 and graduated with an MA in Diplomacy and International Organizations in 1997. He is fluent in English and Persian and is familiar with French and Arabic. He is the author of several articles in local journals on subjects related to international affairs with a special focus on the development of the United Nations.

He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1999 and began his career as a diplomat in the Department of International and Legal Affairs. He soon became the officer-in-charge of issues related to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and several other issues related to statistics, infrastructure and sustainable development. In 2002, Mr. Hassani was posted as Third Secretary to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Jakarta, Indonesia, and for the next four years he was in charge of handling bilateral economic relations.

Back in Tehran in 2005, he rejoined the Department of International and Legal Affairs as the Senior Expert of the Directorate for International Specialized Agencies Affairs. He represented the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the National Committee on Iran's Membership in International Organizations and administered the country's financial contributions to those bodies. He was also in charge of United Nations Fifth Committee issues (administrative and financial) in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

From 2009 to 2012, Mr. Hassani served as First Secretary and subsequently Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations in New York. Issues pertaining to the United Nations development funds and programmes, international macroeconomic and financial issues, social development, global health issues and international population and development issues were among his main lines of responsibility in New York.

Before and during his tenure in New York, he represented the Islamic Republic of Iran as head or member of delegation in numerous international conferences and board meetings and negotiated on behalf of his Government in relation to several major intergovernmental documents and outcomes.

Since his return to Tehran, Mr. Hassani has been assigned as Deputy Director for Human Rights and Cultural Diversity. He is now in charge of managing more than 10 experts in fields such as the right to development, non-governmental organizations, the universal periodic review, disabilities and racism.

# Eastern European States

## Oliver Loode (Estonia)

### Work experience

| | |
|---|---|
| 2005-present | Managing Director, Consumetric, Tallin |
| | Managed tourism development and place marketing consultancy focusing on the Baltic States and Russia. |
| 2010-2012 | Producer, Hortus Litterarum Foundation, Tallin |
| | Generated concept and implemented international literary festival "Dovlatov Days in Tallinn" — highlight event of Tallinn 2011 — European Capital of Culture. Followed by the production of "II Dovlatov Days in Tallinn" in 2012. |
| 2003-2004 | Representative of the Estonian Trade Council in Germany |
| | Established trade contacts between Estonian and German companies and promoted the Estonian economy. |
| 2001-2003 | Managing Director, Consumetric, Tallin |
| | Implemented innovative market and consumer research projects for clients in financial and consumer goods industries in the Baltic States. |
| 1997-2001 | Associate/Senior Associate, Vertex Partners/Braun Consulting, Boston, United States of America |
| 1997 | Analyst, Corestates Bank, Philadelphia, United States of America |

### Education and training

| | |
|---|---|
| 2012-present | MA in International Relations, Tallin University of Technology |
| 1993-1997 | BSc in Economics, magna cum laude, Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania |

### Language skills

Estonian, English, Russian, German, Finnish

### Social activism

Member of the Board, U-Turn NGO (MTÜ U-Pööre), an independent civic society dedicated to preserving and developing the cultural heritage of Finno-Ugric peoples. Key activities (2011-2012):

- Head Organizer of first International Finno-Ugric Branding Conference (October 2011, Tallinn)
- Participant at the eleventh session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (May 2012, New York)

- Initiator and Coordinator of the Finno-Ugric Capitals of Culture programme (in cooperation with MAFUN — the Youth Association of Finno-Ugric Peoples)
- Delegate of Estonia at the sixth World Congress of Finno-Ugric Peoples (September 2012, Hungary)
- Organizer of the Finno-Ugric Civic Diplomacy Seminar "Finno-Ugric movement as cooperation factor between Russia and the European Union" (September 2012, Tallinn)
- Partner/Co-organizer of Finno-Ugric Design Day (October 2012, Helsinki)
- Numerous articles and interviews about Finno-Ugric peoples and movement in Estonian and Russian media

## Aisa Mukabenova (Russian Federation)

**Education**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1985 | Kalmyk State University<br>Faculty: Philology<br>Speciality: History |
| 1996 | Moscow State Institute of International Relations<br>(International Law) |

**Work experience**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1985-1989 | Professor, History and Social Science |
| 1989-1994 | Postgraduate researcher (social and political science), Institute of Social Science, Academy of Sciences of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Institute of Social and Political Research, Russian Academy of Sciences |
| 1994-2002 | Leading expert, Deputy Head of Division, Head of Division, Deputy Head of Department, Ministry of Federation and Nationalities Affairs of the Russian Federation, National and Migration Policy of the Russian Federation (law-making in the sphere of inter-ethnic relations; analytical activities on issues of minorities and indigenous peoples; prevention and eradication of racism, xenophobia and discrimination; cooperation with ethnocultural non-governmental organizations; and involvement in the organization and implementation of projects on the protection of the cultural heritage and education of minorities and indigenous peoples) |
| 2002-present | Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, First Secretary of the Department for Compatriots Affairs and Human Rights; First Secretary, Counsellor, Senior Counsellor of the Department for Humanitarian Cooperation and Human Rights |

**Participation in international forums**

Participated in international forums within the framework of the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the Council of Europe related to the issues of minorities and indigenous peoples, including expert mechanisms of the above-mentioned organizations, sessions of the General Assembly, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Human Rights Council, the Forum on Minority Issues and the Human Dimension Implementation meetings of the OSCE.

**Languages**

Russian, English

## Latin American and Caribbean States

### Simón Freddy Condo Riveros (Plurinational State of Bolivia)

**Higher education**

| | |
|---|---|
| 2011 | Master's degree in Communication and Development, Simón Bolívar Andean University, La Paz |
| 2008 | Diploma in Governance, Citizenship and Indigenous Rights, awarded by Simón Bolívar Andean University |
| 2002 | Diploma in Pedagogical Organization and Administration of the Classroom in Higher Education, awarded by Higher University of San Andrés and CEPIES (Centro Psicopedagógico de Investigación en Educación Superior — Psychopedagogical Centre for Research in Higher Education) |
| 1993 | Degree in Communications, Higher University of San Andrés, La Paz |
| 1992 | Degree in Communications, Catholic University of Bolivia, La Paz |
| 1981 | Instituto San Alberto, La Paz |

**Work experience**

| | |
|---|---|
| 2009-2012 | Organizer of national and international meetings for the Abya Yala, Andean and Amazonian indigenous rural populations and intercultural communities |
| 2008 | National Coordinator of Indigenous Rural Organizations and Intercultural Communities of Bolivia |
| 2007-2009 | Adviser to the Bolivian Syndicalist Confederation of Colonizers |
| 2006 | Deputy Minister of Rural and Agricultural Development, Ministry of Rural, Agricultural and Environmental Development |
| 2004-2006 | Expert I of the Chamber of Deputies |
| 2000-2001 | Executive Director of the Centro de Desarrollo Social y Ecológico (Centre for Social and Ecological Development) |
| 1996-2012 | Teacher at the Universidad Mayor de San Andrés, Faculty of Social Sciences, in the fields of research in communication, visual literacy and history of communication |
| 1994-2009 | General adviser to the Bolivian Syndicalist Confederation of Colonizers |
| 1988-2009 | Adviser to rural indigenous organizations and intercultural communities |
| 1987-1995 | Journalist for the *Informe R* journal of the Documentation and Information Centre (CEDOIN), La Paz |

| | |
|---|---|
| 1987-1995 | Editor of the *Informe Rural* journal, CEDOIN, issues 0 to 50, La Paz |
| 1986-1987 | Director and press officer, Radio Nacional de Huanuni in the mining district of Huanuni, Pantaleón Dalence Province, Department of Oruro |

**Publications**

- *La Marcha del Siglo, Testimonios de Román Loayza y Modesto Condori*. Ediciones Alkamari, La Paz, 1998.
- Collection: *Seguridad alimentaria y dependencia: propuesta de la Federación Nacional de Mujeres Campesinas de Bolivia — Bartolina Sisa (FNMCB"BS")*. Centro de Servicios Agropecuarios (CESA) and Unión Nacional de Instituciones para el Trabajo de Acción Social (UNITAS), 1996.
- *La Bartolinas: sus orígenes, su historia y su futuro*. FNMCB"BS" and CESA, La Paz, 1996.
- *La Agresión: Testimonios*. Ediciones Alkamari, La Paz, 1994.
- *Radio Nacional de Huanuni: Una Comunicación Subversiva*. CEDOIN, La Paz, 1994.
- *Coca: Legado de los Dioses o Locura de los Blancos*. Ediciones Alkamari, La Paz, 1992.

## Gabriel Muyuy Jacanamejoy (Colombia)

Studied philosophy, theology and anthropology at Mariana University, Pasto, and Bolivarian University, Medellín, Colombia, with extensive experience in human and educational development, indigenous and ethnic group issues, and environmental, political and economic law at the national and international levels.

Lecturer at conferences, universities and seminars nationally and internationally. Author of a number of articles on educational, environmental, social, cultural, political and ethnic subjects, published in various specialized books and journals in Colombia and internationally.

Indigenous leader of the Inga people of the Sibundoy Valley in Putumayo, Colombia. Extensive experience with the National Indigenous Organization of Colombia (ONIC), of which he was Vice-Chair. Promoter of other indigenous organizations at the regional and local levels. Adviser in the National Constituent Assembly, at the time of the addition to the Colombian Constitution of 1991 of various articles on environmental, social, cultural, political and economic issues.

Two-term Senator of the Republic representing indigenous peoples of Colombia (1991 to 1998). Member of the constitutional commission for environmental, energy and agrarian issues during his first term; member of the Senate legal ethics committee; member of the economic and budgetary committee during his second term; Vice-Chair of the Senate legal committee on land use.

Ombudsman for indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities of the Colombian Office of the Ombudsman. Expert in human rights related to indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities.

Currently Director of the Presidential Programme for the development of strategies and actions for the Integral Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Colombia.

**Publications**

*Los Derechos políticos, sociales, económicos y culturales de los pueblos indígenas de Colombia.* Series of training plan brochures for the Higher School of Public Administration, 2000.

*Aplicación del Convenio 169 de la OIT en Colombia.* Proceedings of the workshop on the evaluation of the International Labour Organization Convention concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries (Convention No. 169), Office of the Ombudsman, 2000.

*En el ojo de! gran negocio del oro verde. Misión Chamánica* journal, No. 3, 2000.

*Indígene Bewegung in Kulumbien*, Indígene Volker Lateinamerika Instituto de Estudios Latinoamericanos, 1997.

## Alvaro Esteban Pop Ac (Guatemala)

Mr. Álvaro Pop is a current member of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and recently chaired the International Expert Group Meeting on Indigenous Youth: Identity, Challenges and Hope: Articles 14, 17, 21 and 25 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, held in New York from 29 to 31 January 2013.

He is a political analyst that has studied political science and international relations in the Rafael Landívar University in Guatemala. In the last 15 years he has been an activist on the rights of indigenous peoples, especially in the fields of education, human rights, sexuality, health and citizenship.

He is a founder and Head of the Naleb Organization, an institution that analyses the national budget, the debate and dialogue about State reform in multicultural societies and the political participation of indigenous peoples.

He has maintained a constant relationship with indigenous institutions and organizations (Mayans and Garifunas in particular) that work in the rural area. In this regard, he has engaged in a provocative discussion with the media, officials of the international community, businessmen and officials of the Government of Guatemala with regard to HIV/AIDS in the rural and indigenous communities.

He is the Executive Coordinator of the National Campaign of Interethnic Dialogue *"Nuestra diversidad es nuestra fuerza!"* (Our diversity is our strength!), which is a coalition of various national institutions guided by the Centre for Mesoamerican Regional Investigations.

He has coordinated the National Commission for Constitutional Reform of the Indigenous Peoples. This implied discussions between indigenous and political leaders in order to present the consensus drafting of the proposal for constitutional reform presented for the consideration and further approval of the Congress (1997-1998).

He engaged in the preparatory process of the Identity and Rights of Indigenous Peoples Agreement (substantive agreement of the Peace Accords in Guatemala) and afterwards in the negotiation of the Fiscal Pact (1993-1994).

The international activities that Mr. Pop has participated in include:

- Guest of Honour of the King of Spain
- Participant in the programme for international visitors of the State Department of the United States
- Participant in the annual meeting of the Biarritz Group
- Panellist during the annual meeting of the Board of Governors of the Inter-American Development Bank
- Lecturer in the annual Congress of the Latin American Studies Association
- Analyst of the constitutional reform in Bolivia
- Participant in the exchange of experiences of the fiscal reform during the signing of the Pact for Education among the presidential candidates of Mexico, conveyed by the United Nations Children's Fund.

## Western European and other States

### Jens Dahl (Denmark)

**Key qualifications**

- In-depth knowledge of indigenous peoples worldwide
- In-depth knowledge of Arctic indigenous issues including self-government, social indicators, land rights and environmental issues
- Many years experience working with indigenous peoples worldwide and practical and scientific work on indigenous issues
- Many years experience working with indigenous peoples' projects
- In-depth knowledge of indigenous peoples and human rights

**Employment history**

| | |
|---|---|
| 2007-present | Adjunct professor, Department of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies, University of Copenhagen |
| 1998-2006 | Director, International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs, Copenhagen |
| 1994-1998 | Associate Professor, Department of Eskimology, University of Copenhagen |
| 1989-1994 | Executive Director, International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA), Copenhagen |
| 1977-1989 | Associate Professor, Department of Eskimology, University of Copenhagen |
| 1976-1977 | Assistant Professor, Department of Eskimology, University of Copenhagen |
| 1975-1976 | Researcher, Ministry for Greenland |
| 1974-1975 | Instructor, Department of Anthropology, University of Aarhus and University of Copenhagen |
| 1974 | Magister degree in Anthropology, University of Copenhagen |

**Field experience**

Research experience includes long-time field research in Greenland and other Arctic countries and communities since 1980

Shorter and longer stay in indigenous communities in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Pacific, Russia and the Arctic

Since 1989, a regular participant in United Nations meetings concerning indigenous issues

**Primary publications**

2012 *The Indigenous Space and Marginalized Peoples in the United Nations*. New York: Palgrave, December 2012.

2009 *IWGIA — a history*. Copenhagen: IWGIA.

2000 *Saqqaq — An Inuit Hunting Community in the Modern World*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

1992 *Indfødte Folk*. København: IWGIA (translated and published in a number of indigenous languages).

1986 *Arktisk Selvstyre*. København: Akademisk Forlag.

## Megan Davis (Australia)

Professor Megan Davis is Director of the Indigenous Law Centre and Professor of Law in the Faculty of Law, University of New South Wales and a Commissioner of the New South Wales Land and Environment Court. Professor Davis researches and teaches in the field of indigenous peoples in international law, indigenous peoples and constitutional law, and violence against indigenous women.

Professor Davis is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law; female co-chair of the Ethics Council of the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples; a member of the New South Wales Sentencing Council and a board member of the Diplomacy Training Program (established by José Ramos-Horta). In 2012, Professor Davis was selected by the Prime Minister of Australia to be a member of the Prime Minister's Expert Panel on the Recognition of Indigenous Peoples in the Australian Constitution.

Professor Davis has participated for over 10 years in indigenous international advocacy at the United Nations. In 2010, Professor Davis was elected an expert member of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues for the term 2011-2013; she holds the portfolios of gender and women and administration of justice. In 2012, she was elected Rapporteur of the Forum and Rapporteur of the Forum's expert group meeting on violence against women.

Professor Davis was the first indigenous Australian to be selected for the United Nations Indigenous Fellowship at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, in 1999. Since that time she has actively participated in indigenous advocacy at the United Nations and has worked as a legal adviser to the Foundation for Aboriginal Islander Research Action and the Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Commission at the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations, the United Nations Working Group elaborating the draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Over the course of the past 10 years, Professor Davis has consulted for the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and the World Intellectual Property Organization. At the Indigenous Law Centre she has overseen indigenous non-governmental reports regarding Australia's compliance with its international obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. In 2005, she appeared before the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Professor Davis has published widely on indigenous rights in international law. She is the Australian member of the International Law Association's Indigenous Rights Committee and is currently writing a legal text with Dr. Sarah Pritchard on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Australian law. Her PhD thesis is on the right to self-determination in international law and Aboriginal women in Australia.

Professor Davis is a Cobble Cobble Aboriginal woman from South East Queensland and of South Sea Island descent. In 2012, she was awarded the prestigious National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee Scholar of the Year.